

Minutes, Public Works Committee

November 18, 2008

Present: Rob Crowner, Chair; Steve Braun, Mike Cann, Don George, Charlie Moran, Guilford Mooring, Vince O'Connor.

1. Administrative

- a. Minutes of October Meeting: Accepted, with change: that PWC will review the list of streets to be repaired with the requested additional money. Voted: 6-0.
- b. Set next regular meeting: December 9, 8:00. In addition, a special meeting at the Medical Building on University Drive. December 2, 9:00 am, meeting on University Drive re-figuring.

2. Updates

- a. Lincoln Avenue meeting. Steve Braun reported: well attended; Guilford Mooring presented a proposal to establish some half-way closures on Fearing and Lincoln as a first step. Would prevent traffic from going to and from UMass parking lot directly down Lincoln. Attempt to reduce volume; there is opposition to speed-bumps from the Fire Department. Neighbors attending seemed receptive to the proposed half-way closures. If the half-closures on Lincoln at Fearing seem to be pushing traffic onto Sunset, then further use of half-closures at the Sunset/Fearing intersection would be considered. The initial barriers will be installed in spring '09 so that traffic counters can be placed to gather traffic data (the counters cannot be used in winter because plows would destroy them). Traffic data after the barriers have been installed will be compared to existing data gathered in the past two years.
- b. West Street-Pomeroy Lane. Rob Crowner reported: DRB moving forward with their analysis of the West St. /Pomeroy Lane intersection. Public meeting. Points of controversy: where to put bus stops, and width of roadway. Some wanted a left-turn lane for westbound on Pomeroy. Don George: in Civil engineering, we don't design for the worst case, because we can't afford it. Guilford Mooring: we now have an opportunity to acquire land for eventual road-widening. Slobody property: buyer willing to give Town land to increase width of right of way.

Moved: That PWC recommend that the Town explore acquiring land with the object of widening the right-of-way on W-Pomeroy and West St near the intersection of these two roads.

Voted 5-0-1.

- c. Street Repair Plan--postponed.
- d. East Leverett Road bridge: completed.

- e. University Drive--consultants coming. December 2 special meeting set (see above, 1b).
- f. Obama Admin. stimulus package: Vince wants an unprioritized list of street repairs to be included with the memo to be submitted to the Select Board for possible use in applying for any federal or state stimulus packages that might be passed in the new administration.

3. New Business

- a. Traffic calming plan: on the Superintendent's desk; goes to Town Manager first.
- b. Bus pulloffs, Main Street: Block Grant money--bus shelter, bus pull-outs, sidewalks. Will be laid out in the BSGC request. Roy Rosenblatt coordinates. Accessibility being addressed on Main Street. Will have to contract it out. Land-taking will go to TM after the funds become available. Will be a strip-plan, like N. Pleasant St.
- c. Permitting Right Turn on Red at two intersections. Vince O'Connor proposed permitting right-on-red turning south from East Hadley Road onto S. Pleasant St.; and in all directions at the intersection of East St. and Main Street. Vince O'Connor argued that these changes would speed traffic flow; Charlie Moran and Mike Cann took the pedestrian/cyclist perspective, and argued that these changes would make the intersections more hazardous for those on foot or bicycle.

Moved: That right turns on red be allowed turning south from East Hadley Road onto 116.

Defeated: 1-5-0.

Moved: That right turns on red be allowed at the intersection of East St. and Main Street for all four directions of traffic flow.

Defeated--3-3-0.

- d. Spring Street/Lord Jeff Inn. Guilford Mooring reported that the Select Board has already voted the plan for sidewalks and parking on the east side of Boltwood and the south side of Spring. There is therefore no role for PWC here. The sidewalk on the north side of Spring Street gets done as well. Vince O'Connor asked that the Committee be given the plans for the Spring Street project.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlie Moran, Sec'y pro tem.